



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

MR WILLIAM J MAXWELL  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
608 SOUTH WRIGHT STREET  
URBANA, IL 61801

January 15, 2007

Subject: BROWN, STERLING ALLEN

FOIPA No. 1059110- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

Section 552a

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3) _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
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105 page(s) were reviewed and 104 page(s) are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- ☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

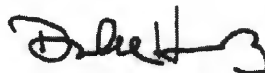
☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s).

If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

To minimize costs to both you and the FBI, extra file copies of the same document were not processed.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ COVER SHEET

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 1  
Page 4 ~ Duplicate

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X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
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**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
 Washington Field Division, 1437 K St., N.W.  
 Washington, D. C.

August 14, 1941

CCM:MC  
 101-1381

*USE THIS FILE -  
 RE. FBI CURR  
 TO INVEST.  
 Govt. Encl. v. n*

Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 Washington, D. C.

RE: STERLING A. BROWN  
 INTERNAL SECURITY  
 HATCH ACT

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 b7C

ATTENTION: MR. P. E. FOXWORTH

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that the files of the Washington Field Division reflect that the above individual is listed on the mailing lists or membership lists of the following organizations:

American Peace Mobilization - Report of Special Agent [ ] dated February 17, 1941, at Washington, D. C. - Page 209.

Washington Committee for Democratic Action - Report of Special Agent [ ] dated January 21, 1941, at Washington, D. C. - Page 108.

Employed - Public Schools.

RECORDED  
 INDEXED  
 DATE 4-18-97  
 368,589

SP3BTS/RW

Very truly yours,

*S. K. McKee*  
 S. K. MCKEE  
 Special Agent in Charge

100-1111 1-1

SE

*RTG*

RECORDED

GNW:mes

October 4, 1941

101-1678-2

100-43964-2

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Washington Field Division of this Bureau has received information from a highly confidential source indicating that the name of Sterling A. Brown, who is reportedly employed by the Federal Security Agency at Howard University, appears on the active indices of the American Peace Mobilization and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Information received from a confidential informant has also been received to the effect that Mr. Brown is a member of the Communist Party, working directly out of the National Office of the Communist Party in New York. The person from whom this information was secured advised that Mr. Brown did not belong to the Communist Party in the District of Columbia and did this in an effort to hide his party connection in New York.

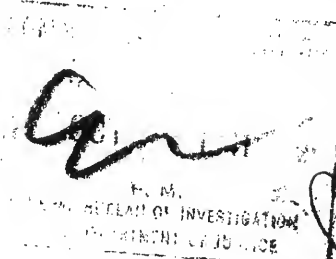
Will you kindly advise me at your earliest convenience whether any investigation should be conducted by this Bureau under Public Law No. 135, 77th Congress.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

RECORDED BY SP3 BTJ/Ru  
4-18-97

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



draw info!

AN Empowerment

CLIVEN, V.

New

Q&A

page

Handwritten signature/initials

GDK:AM  
101-1381

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

September 19, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: STERLING A. BROWN  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
HATCH ACT

Att: Mr. P. E. Foxworth.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated August 14, 1941 in the above-entitled matter, wherein I advised that the name of STERLING A. BROWN appeared on the mailing lists or membership lists of the following:

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American Peace Mobilization

Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

In reference letter, I further advised you that this individual was employed in the public schools. Please be advised that subsequent information has been ascertained that Confidential Informant [redacted] has furnished information to the effect that the above-named individual is a member of the Communist Party working directly out of the National Office of the Communist Party in New York. This informant further advised the above individual does not belong to the Communist Party of the District of Columbia in an effort to hide his party connection in New York. (W.F.O. 100-2286).

You are further advised that subsequent to my reference letter, it has been determined that STERLING A. BROWN is an Assistant Professor at Howard University, and not employed in the public schools as previously set out.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-18-97 BY SP3BTS/RW

S. K. MCKEE  
Special Agent in Charge

100-43964-2

INDEXED	6
SEP 23 1941	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

September 25, 1941

101-2286-  
GDK:EDG

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Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: STERLING A. BROWN  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that [ ] confidential informant, [ ] furnished information to this office to the effect that the above named individual is a member of the Communist Party working directly out of the National Office of the Communist Party in New York. He advised further that this individual does not belong to the Communist Party in Washington, D. C. in an effort to hide his party connection. It has further been determined that STERLING A. BROWN is an instructor in English at Howard University, and resides at 1222 Kearney Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

In view of the fact that this individual is a governmental employee a separate communication was directed to the Bureau under a Hatch Act character requesting authority for investigation. Inasmuch as this was done, the instant case on this individual in the Washington Field Office is being considered closed.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-18-97 BY SP3 BTJ/RW

*S. K. McKee*  
S. K. MCKEE  
Special Agent in Charge

*Letter to WFO*  
*10-30-41*  
*GRW*

RECORDED

100-43964-3
SEP 27 1941
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*from Hoover!*

Office  
100-43964 - 3  
Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

October 30, 1941

RE: STERLING A. BROWN  
Howard University  
Federal Security Agency  
Internal Security  
Hatch Act

*Slag down  
revise  
Hatch Act  
1*

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of **September 19, 1941** concerning the captioned individual.

As you are aware, the Bureau has been specifically directed by Congress to institute investigations of Government Employees who are members of subversive organizations or who advocate the overthrow of the Federal Government. ☒

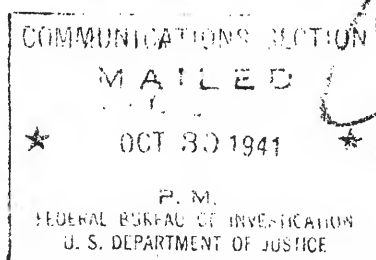
You are directed to institute immediate investigation in conformance with the instructions contained in Bureau Bulletin No. 35, First Series, 1941, and forward a complete report not later than fifteen days from the receipt of this letter.

You are specifically instructed to fully develop complete information concerning the subject's connections with any "subversive" organizations including his present activities and relationship thereto. It is not desired that a detailed investigation concerning background and personal history be conducted, but the inquiry should be definitely limited to determining whether or not this individual is engaged in activities inimical to the best interest of this Government.

In the preparation of the investigative report which will reflect the entire investigation, it should be borne in mind that copies may be furnished to other Government Agencies. It is therefore incumbent upon you to protect the identity of informants or sources of information where such action is considered advisable by your office. There should be no reference to custodial detention matters in this report. *ANA!*

Inasmuch as this investigation is being made at the specific request of Congress I will not tolerate any failure to comply in every respect with the instructions contained in this letter. *balhoo!*

A review of the Bureau's files fails to disclose any information other than that appearing in your reference letter which may be of assistance to you in conducting this inquiry.



NOT CONTAINED  
UNCLASSIFIED  
4-18-97 SP3 BTJ/PW

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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b7C

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

FILE NO. 101-1381

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/1/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/12, 16, 2/4, 6, 3/6, 7, 10, 11, 31/42	REPORT MADE BY SWR:APM:CSM
TITLE STERLING ALLEN BROWN Associate Professor of English Howard University Federal Security Agency			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY HATCH ACT
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>STERLING ALLEN BROWN has been employed at the Federal Security Agency since 1929, and is presently an Associate Professor at Howard University. It is confidentially reported that the name of STERLING BROWN appears on the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American Peace Mobilization, now known as the American Peoples Mobilization. Confidential Informants advised STERLING ALLEN BROWN is a member of the Communist Party working directly out of the National Office of the Party in New York, New York, and that he is an outstanding negro poet, has spoken concerning negro poetry and prose indiscriminately at all types of organizations. Other informants state that there is no indication that BROWN is a member of any alleged subversive organization or advocates the overthrow of the Government. Informant stated BROWN criticized the "fickleness and whimsey of the Communist Party line". BROWN was interviewed and gave a signed statement.</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4-18-97 BY SP3BTS/KC</p> <p>2 PC'S to AEC 9-13-56 JUK.</p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated October 30, 1941.</p> <p>AGENCY photo USIA REQ. REC'D. 4-22-59 REF'T. REC'D. 5-11-59 BY Bug</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED S. K. McKee	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 1 - Bureau 5 - Bureau 2 - Washington Field		<p>4-3767</p> <p>APR 10 1942</p>	

COPY IN FILE

COPIES DESTROYED 9/19/58 R97

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

I. PERSONAL HISTORY

A. The personnel file at Howard University revealed that STERLING ALLEN BROWN was born in Washington, D. C., on May 1, 1901. He attended Williams College, 1918-22, and obtained a degree of BA from that school in 1922. The file further revealed BROWN attended Harvard University from 1922-23, obtaining a degree of Master of Arts. The file revealed that he presently resides at 1222 Kearney St., N. E. The file indicated that BROWN is a member of the League of American Writers; the American Association of University Professors, and the Association for Study of Negro Life and History. BROWN is a native born American citizen. 11 ✓

B. The personnel file at Howard University revealed BROWN taught at the Virginia Seminary and College from 1923 -1926; at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, 1926-28; and at Fisk University, 1928-29. The file revealed that BROWN entered on duty at Howard University in 1929 and is presently an Associate professor of English, at \$3,000 per annum. *mw → Howard Univ*

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II. BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION

Confidential informant herein designated as [ ] advised that the name of "STERLING BROWN, professor, Howard University, Washington, D. C.", appears in the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Confidential informant [ ] advised that the name "STERLING BROWN, 1222 Kearney St., N. E., Washington, D. C.", appears on the indices of the American Peace Mobilization, now known as the American Peoples Mobilization.

III. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

On March 10, 1942, Special Agent [ ] of the Washington Field Division checked the general indices of the Dies Committee and noted the following index cards:

"STERLING BROWN  
'American Stuff' (Anthology)  
Contributor  
Daily Worker, May 25, 1937, p. 7"

"STERLING BROWN  
Labor Poets of America  
Speaker  
Daily Worker, January 24, 1939, p. 7"

"STERLING BROWN  
League of American Writers  
Speaker; NYC  
Daily Worker, Dec. 12, 1936, p.5"

"STERLING BROWN  
Washington Book Shop  
Member  
Committee file  
1222 Kearney St., N. E.,  
Washington, D. C."

"STERLING BROWN  
American League for Peace and Democracy  
Washington Branch  
Vice Chairman  
(letterhead 3/4/39)"

"STERLING BROWN  
League of American Writers  
Member, National Board  
(The Bulletin of the League of  
American Writers, p. 12)"

"STERLING BROWN  
Washington Committee for Democratic Action  
Member  
Committee file  
1222 Kearney, N. E.,  
Washington, D. C.  
(Prof. Howard University)"

"STERLING BROWN  
Washington Committee for Democratic Action  
Sponsor  
(Call to a Conference on Civil Rights,  
April 20-21, 1940, p. 4)"

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"STERLING A. BROWN  
League of American Writers  
Member  
(The Bulletin, Summer 1938, p. 4)"

Confidential Informant [redacted]

X [redacted] information to the effect that STERLING A. BROWN is a member of the Communist Party, working directly out of the national office of the Communist Party in New York. [redacted] further advised that this individual does not belong to the Communist Party in Washington, D. C., in an effort to hide his party connections.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

X [redacted] advised that files in informant's possession reveal a notation, on April 30, 1934, that STERLING BROWN, professor at Howard University, has been communicating with one [redacted] who is suspected of having Communist affiliations. [redacted] further advised that the files contain the reference dated May 16, 1941, that the name of STERLING BROWN, 1222 Kearney, N. E., Washington, D. C., appears on the membership list of the Washington Book Shop. Informant advised that the files contain a notation dated on January 6, 1939, that STERLING BROWN was a sponsor of the American League for Peace and Democracy Congress.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

X [redacted] advised that informant had no information concerning STERLING A. BROWN.

[redacted] Informant

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stated that BROWN is an individual who spends most of his time studying and writing and did not appear to be an individual who would be concerning himself with any political movements. Informant advised that BROWN's father was a former dean at Howard University. [redacted] stated he had no indication that BROWN is a member of any alleged subversive organization, and that he had never heard BROWN make any statements which would indicate he advocated the overthrow of the Government by force of arms. (A)

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Confidential informant [redacted]

[redacted] Informant stated BROWN is a poet and as such may have contact with Communists or even Nazis through his interest in poetry. Informant added that such contact would strictly be confined to an interest in poetry, and not any interest of a political nature. Informant stated he believes BROWN is fundamentally a substantial individual and good American citizen, and does not think BROWN was ever connected with any subversive or radical organizations. [redacted] remarked that BROWN's interests are confined to poetry, and that he has often spoken on negro poetry and literature. Informant stated BROWN might have spoken before questionable groups but that his interest at all times was confined to an interest in the negro literature and poetry. b2 b7D

Confidential informant [redacted]

[redacted] Informant stated BROWN had first concerned himself with writing poetry concerning the folk lore of the colored people. Informant stated BROWN was advised that in order that his poetry would receive national recognition, it would be necessary for him to write his poetry concerning matters of a social nature. Informant stated BROWN thereafter developed a view of social consciousness and as a result became more broad in his associations and undoubtedly came in contact with people with Communist tendencies. Informant stated that he could not say that BROWN was a member of any alleged subversive organization, but that he knew BROWN was always in demand to speak concerning the negro prose and poetry. Informant remarked that BROWN is a willing performer and accepts all invitations to speak. [redacted] stated he knows that BROWN has been much concerned over speaking to certain groups, and on one occasion, informant stated, BROWN was invited to speak before the National Negro Congress. [redacted] Informant

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stated that on one occasion BROWN limited his speeches to a discussion of negro poetry and prose, and never concerned himself with any political movement. Informant advised that he feels certain that BROWN is not a radical or a Communist. [redacted] stated he recalls specifically hearing BROWN criticize the "fickleness and whimsey of the Communist Party line". Informant stated that in his opinion BROWN is a loyal American who is outstanding as a critic and writer of negro literature, and as such is in demand to speak on these topics and is unable to make an emphatic refusal when asked to do so.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

[redacted] Informant stated BROWN has great sympathy for the lower classes and has written much regarding them. Informant stated BROWN's poetry cannot be call Communistic and gave no indication that he was sympathetic to the Communist Party. Informant advised that during numerous speaking engagements, BROWN has come in contact with many "movements" but informant does not think he was interested politically in any. [redacted] stated that BROWN was said to have spoken in meetings of some organization in Carnegie Hall in New York, which meeting, informant advised, was reported to be sponsored by the Communist Party. Informant stated he inquired of BROWN concerning this meeting, and that BROWN replied he did not know whether or not this meeting was sponsored by the Communist Party, but even if it were, he, BROWN, was not a Communist. Informant advised that BROWN would speak of negro poetry and prose on any occasion when he was invited to do so, but that at the present time he was more careful since the issues of Communism have been more publicized.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

[redacted] with BROWN in Washington and has never heard him make any statements which would indicate he was sympathetic with any alleged subversive groups. Informant advised she has heard him on many occasions speak about negro art, music, poetry, and folk lore.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

[redacted] Informant advised that at no time had she ever received any indication that BROWN was a member of any subversive group or advocated the overthrow of the Government by force of arms.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

[redacted] of BROWN for several years.

Informant remarked that [ ] BROWN never gave any indication he was a member of any alleged subversive organization. Informant stated that she had never heard anyone [ ] make any allegations that BROWN was not a loyal American.

Confidential Informant [ ] advised she is acquainted with BROWN [ ] Kearney Street. Informant stated she never heard either BROWN [ ] make any statements which would indicate that they were not loyal Americans, or that they are associated with any subversive organization. Informant advised that BROWN does not hold any meetings in his home and as far as she has been able to observe is a patriotic American citizen.

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#### IV INTERVIEW WITH EMPLOYEE

On March 31, 1942, STERLING ALLEN BROWN was interviewed by Special Agent [ ] in the presence of Stenographer [ ] Federal Bureau of Investigation, and gave the following signed statement.

Washington, D. C.  
March 31, 1942

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Statement of STERLING ALLEN BROWN, made in the presence of Special Agent [redacted] and Stenographer [redacted] Federal Bureau of Investigation. Questions by [redacted]

Q. MR. BROWN, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been charged with the duty, by Congress, of investigating Federal employees who are alleged to be members of subversive organizations or who advocate the overthrow of the Federal Government, and to report its findings to the Congress. The purpose of this interview is to afford you an opportunity to answer questions concerning alleged activities on your part, and you may make any statement that you consider pertinent.

A. I will be happy to.

Q. The questions that I am about to ask you may be answered if you so desire, and a copy of the report of this investigation, including any statements you make, will be furnished to the agency that employs you. In order that your statement may have particular credence, you will be placed under oath. Do you have any objection to that?

A. I have no objection to it. I am curious about the alleged activities. I would be happy to talk under oath.

Q. Will you stand and raise your right hand, please? Do you solemnly swear that the statements you are about to make will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

A. I do. There is one question I would like to ask. If it is a matter of uncertainty, I am not going to swear that a point--it is possible in this to say that at the time I don't know this, that, or the other, provided you get a clear-cut answer on the general business.

Q. What is your home address, please?

A. 1222 Kearny Street, N. E.

Q. MR. BROWN, are you at the present time or have you ever been a member of the National Negro Congress?

A. I have been a member of that, yes.

Q. Would you care to state the extent of your activities in that connection?

A. My membership is one of many in Negro organizations. When the Negro Congress was set up I was behind its purposes. I was not one of those who set it up. When I learned of the purposes--I have done a whole lot of

SAB things

SAB

joining in the sense of giving two dollars to somebody who comes in supporting I like things-I do. I didn't do any investigating of the organizations. I was generally a pretty busy person, with my home work. I am anxious to write and I am a student of literature and I am a teacher. I joined the Negro Congress because of my very great interest in all efforts to help the lot of the American Negro, and that was one of them. I likewise belong to other Negro organizations--the National Association for Colored People and groups of that sort. If I have two dollars or five dollars I send it. I have never been active in the Negro Congress and I have never done any investigating of its alleged tie-ups with subversive groups.

Q. Can you approximate the number of meetings of the organization at which you have been in attendance?

A. I have been asked to speak at meetings, largely because, I think, of the subject that I have worked a great deal on. That is, literature about the Negro and literature by the Negro, and that is a popular subject with that type of group, and I spoke at one meeting on that in Philadelphia. I never attended any of these what you would call the ordinary meetings. SAB I think I gave one talk for that. I read some poems at a meeting in a Washington church and (was asked to read some poems). The name of the church I have forgotten. It was a Washington church. I would say my attendance has been very small at those affairs. Only those two come to my mind: there probably were others. I have never been at the important meetings of policy or anything of that sort. I don't feel myself to be an active member of that and never did, but I have contributed and I am probably still on the list. I would probably still give two dollars to this program, that, or the other.

SAB did so.

Q. MR. BROWN, are you at the present time or have you ever been a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever been requested to serve as a sponsor for that organization?

A. No. Not that I remember. I have had nothing to do with that organization. You see, many of these organizations after the Dies Committee investigation--I did not agree with all of the implications that I thought were made by the Dies investigation, but I was not going to gamble on whether this investigation was true or not. That is, the matter of the tie-ups with Communism, etc., and my attitude on Russia changed with several factors. I don't suppose you want that right now. I suppose that will come later, in due course of time, but--the war line-up--after the Finland push and the Hitler tie-up, I was alienated from any--well, I did not want any tie-up with Communism or anything of that sort because

→ S. Brown (✓) "alienated" by Natl/Security Act!

I was very much anti-Hitler and I think much of my interest in organizations of this type has been a very great hostility to Hitler and to Mussolini, and so most of my membership in organizations was before the present crisis. I did belong to the League for Peace and Democracy.

Q. Are you at the present time a member of the American People's Mobilization, which was formerly known as the American Peace Mobilization?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever attended any meetings of that organization?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever made any financial contributions?

A. No. I never was for any peace mobilization after the war started. I am not talking about the American participation, I am talking about after Hitler went into Poland. I have never been an Isolationist or anything of that sort.

Q. MR. BROWN, are you at the present time or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

A. No. Never have been.

Q. Have you ever had any connections with the Communist Party in New York City?

A. I never have. I have subscribed to the New Masses at different times. I did that way back when the New Masses was started. I was a teacher of literature in Virginia. I was very interested--I still am--in American culture and American literature and the currents of American thought. I was a teacher at a small school where there was no good library. I used to take all sorts of magazines. I was right out of college and I was as interested as a person could be in a world with which I hadn't had much contact. I used to take all the magazines--The Nation, and, when the New Masses started, I took that. Since the New Masses started I have taken it occasionally. I have never been associated, however, with any of its political policies. SAB

Q. You mentioned the publication, New Masses, MR. BROWN. Do you consider that to be a Communist publication?

A. I have felt that its support of the Communist Party would make it seem sympathetic. I don't know any of its formal connections. I think it is sympathetic to the Communist Party.

CHAP. 3

Q. MR. BROWN, do you recall having spoken at any meetings of organizations in New York City which were sponsored by the Communist Party?

A. No. I don't know any sponsorship that the Communist Party has given to any of this kind of thing. I have spoken in New York City under all kinds of auspices. I have been teaching at Howard and I have known of Howard's semi-relationship with the Government and so forth. I would not have taken an invitation ~~if I had known it was sponsored by the Communist Party~~ if I had known it was sponsored by the Communist Party or any of the other parties of that sort. I have never been tied up politically with any of those groups. I may have spoken at groups that were said to have been sponsored, but I never spoke at a group that I knew was sponsored or that it was told to me they sponsored.

Q. MR. BROWN, are you at the present time or have you ever been a member of any organization which you have reason to believe is dominated by the Communist Party or its policies dictated by a foreign government?

A. I have belonged to organizations of which that has been said. But during my membership I never saw that. I never was a very active member in the sense of knowing policies or seeing where they came from. I mean, I am not a voting, arguing type of member. I have been teaching and am not a good man for that sort of thing. I have belonged to groups that, according to the Dies investigation, were under such dictation as you mentioned. I did not know that and I have never seen any evidence of that. I belong to no such group now. I did belong to the League for American Writers. ~~I suppose that my name is still on the books.~~ I haven't participated for years. The League for American Writers was said by DIES to be such an organization. I have never seen any evidence of it, but again I certainly did not search for that, and my contact was slight. I have never been an active member in organizations.

Q. I have no further questions. Is there any further statement you care to make?

A. Well, another organization of that sort is the same thing as I have said -- SAB is the League for Peace and Democracy, which I belonged to in Washington. The two causes were certainly causes that I believed in -- a defense of peace and democracy before the war started in Europe. It was an organization of which the principles appealed and I joined. I am not -- I was not a very active member of any of these. I am not pleading my inactivity as not being behind it. It's the person and sort of the fact that my time is crowded. I am teaching and am trying to write. I am not a man for meetings. It is much more easy to get two dollars or five dollars out of me, and I let it go at that, so that organization I belonged to. That, too, I understand, was under suspicion by Congressman DIES. I will state that for the record. (I don't know whether you

(more my personality and)

GASIT

(p. 3)

① all pro-BM but are Red!  
② His story → we are making  
the five tests // true testing!

asked me any questions on it) I have never belonged to any political party. I think that politically I would be a New Deal Democrat (I have never voted because I am a citizen of Washington). I have gotten, I suppose the reputation as a radical because of my position on the race matter in America, and I definitely believe that democratic rights and privileges should come to all people, regardless of race or religion, and my writing has frequently stated that. And in America when a Negro states something of that sort he is considered radical. I mean, the position of the Negro should be perhaps more conservatively stated, but then (sometimes) I have stated it in my writing. I am perfectly willing for the things that I have written to be thoroughly investigated for where I stand. I think that that would be an indication more than this membership/which, thought not accidental, is certainly not an important thing in my life; but my books are available and I would be glad to give organizations the names of them.

Q. I might ask this further question, MR. BROWN: have you ever advocated change in the constitutional form of government?

A. I am glad you asked that. There is nothing in my beliefs of subversion. I was not surprised to be called down here, but I was surprised at being tied up with subversive activities. I would never advocate a change by violence in the American system. My complaints of the treatment of the Negro in America do not mean that there is any place where he is treated better. It is that within a democratic framework he could be treated better. In this crisis I am all-out for it, and I think it is tragically silly for a person not to be all-out for the victory of the United States. My great hatred is for what Hitler wants and for what Mussolini wants. I am all-out behind this war. I believe that changes for the better will come. I have seen some of them, and I believe that they will come in our way of government. I do not believe that those changes will come for the better by violent revolution. I think that they will come as they are coming and as they have come. That is my position. I have never joined any organization advocating the overthrow of the American Government, and I would not do it. I have been tied up with organizations that have been so alleged, because of sympathies with certain things that they are doing. For instance, the matter of the race inequality problem in the South and the matter of the Negro problem throughout the nation. Groups like that have come out for those causes and I have supported them in my own way, which has been a rather small way, but I think the causes are important; But I have never advocated overthrow of the Government. It is a long answer to your question, but I wanted the record straight on that.

Q. Do you have anything further, MR. BROWN?

A. I feel I can talk better with questions. I am writing books. There is a whole lot that is pressing. There is a whole lot that's on my mind, and I don't want to just let it go. I would rather answer questions about it that might give you some benefit or help or insight.

Q. Well, I have no further questions. I believe I have covered the subject I am interested in.

A. I don't know whether my position is clear. This will have to be taken for what it is worth--but I look upon myself as working within a democratic framework for the improvement of democracy in the ways where it means most to me. Since I am a Negro, I would be most interested in the welfare of my own people. Since so many Negroes are poor, I would be interested in such things as labor improvement, the sharecropper situation, etc.; but I think that those improvements can be attained in <sup>an</sup> America that is a democracy, and I think that they won't be attained if we don't win this war, so I am for the winning of this war.

Q. MR. BROWN, you may have the opportunity, if you wish, of reading a transcript of this interview and of signing it, if you wish. It is entirely within your discretion.

b6  
b7C

A. I should like to see the transcript, of course.

Witness:

F.B.I. Wash. D. C.

/s/ STERLING A. BROWN

- C L O S E D -

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

[redacted] Highly confidential source from whom the active indices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action were obtained.

Highly confidential source from whom the active indices of the American Peace Mobilization were obtained.

[redacted] in a letter to the Director dated September 25, 1941, RE: STERLING A. BROWN, Internal Security, C.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Public Relations Squad, Metropolitan Police Department.

Confidential informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

b6  
b7C

STERLING ALLEN BROWN  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

Report of Special Agent [redacted]  
[redacted] dated April 1, 1942,  
at Washington, D. C.

ENT:DS  
100-43964-4

April 30, 1942

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

b6  
b7C

Honorable Paul V. McNutt  
Administrator  
Federal Security Agency  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McNutt:

As you are aware, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been specifically instructed by Congress to investigate any Government Employee who is the subject of a complaint coming within the purview of Public Law No. 135. 77th Congress, and to make a complete report of its findings to Congress.

In compliance with this directive an investigation has been conducted with regard to the individual whose name is set out below and who is an employee of your department and I am transmitting herewith a copy of the following investigative report which reflects the results of this inquiry:

Report of Special Agent [redacted]  
dated April 1, 1942, at Washington,  
D. C., concerning Sterling Allen Brown,  
who is employed by the Howard University  
at Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP3 BTJ/RW  
ON 4-18-97

Inasmuch as our final report to Congress must be complete in every respect I would appreciate receiving your official comment as to the ultimate disposition of this case either by exoneration, dismissal or other administrative action.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 12

☆ APR 30 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure

9 MAY 5 1942

SW

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
WASHINGTON

Office of  
THE ADMINISTRATOR

AUG 12 1942

Dear Mr. Hoover:

b6  
b7C

We have carefully reviewed the following reports regarding alleged subversive activities of certain employees of the Howard University:

Report of Special Agent PSA OWENS dated February 26, 1942, at Washington, D. C., regarding [redacted] who is employed by Howard University, at Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 1, 1942, at Washington, D. C., concerning [redacted] who is employed by the Federal Security Agency at Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 16, 1942, at Washington, D. C., concerning [redacted] employed as an instructor at Howard University.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 1, 1942, at Washington, D. C., concerning Sterling Allen Brown, who is employed by the Howard University at Washington, D. C.

Inasmuch as we find nothing in these reports showing that the above employee has engaged in any activities which might properly be characterized subversive or disloyal to our Government, they have been exonerated and we are filing the reports without further action.

Sincerely yours,

*[Handwritten signature]*

Assistant Administrator

Mr. John Edgar Hoover,  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

AUG 13 1942	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	FILE

RE: 100-43964-5

September 11, 1942

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

RE: **STERLING ALLEN BROWN**  
**HOWARD UNIVERSITY**  
**FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY**  
**INTERNAL SECURITY, HATCH ACT**

Dear Sir:

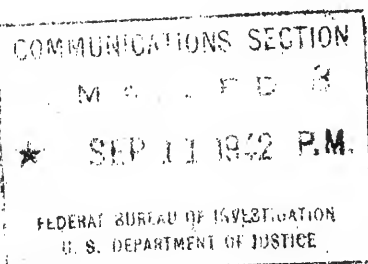
For your information and the completion of your files this is to advise that the above-mentioned government agency has advised the Bureau, after a review of the report submitted by your office, that no administrative action is being taken against the subject of this investigation. *11 gah!*

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-18-97 BY SP3BTJ/ew

*J. E. Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



Form 4118  
April 1943

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File IS:MP

Date June 7, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy  
Files

The Commission desires to bring to your attention the information summarized below:

IDENTIFYING DATA: Sterling A. Brown  
1222 Kearney Street, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.  
Professor, Howard University

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Information has been received to the effect that the subject is alleged to have pro-Communist sympathies. It has been reported that he has been a member of the following organizations: Washington Committee for Democratic Action, National Board for the League of American Writers; American League for Peace and Democracy; and the Washington Branch, American League for Peace and Democracy. It was also reported that he was a signer of a letter released by the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom and printed in the Daily Worker on November 18, 1940 protesting the dismissal of University of Michigan students for being "disturbing influences".

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-18-92 BY SP3 BTJ/RW

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission has made no investigation in the case of Mr. Brown.

Very truly yours,

Wm. H. McMillen

Wm. H. McMillen  
Chief  
Investigations Division

Copies sent to the agencies checked:

- ☒ Federal Bureau of Investigation  
☐ Military Intelligence Service  
☐ Office of Naval Intelligence

RECORDED - INDEXED JUN 10 1945

56 JUN 23 1943

FIVE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: June 22, 1948

FROM : SAC, GUY POSTEL, WASHINGTON FIELD

SUBJECT: STERLING ALLEN BROWN  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

In connection with the investigation of case entitled [redacted] it was noted that STERLING ALLEN BROWN is employed at Howard University as Professor of English.

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b6  
b7C  
b7D

The indices of Washington Field Office reflect that he was subject of Hatch Act investigation in April, 1942. Confidential informants have advised that STERLING BROWN'S name appeared on active indices of Washington Committee for Democratic Action and American Peace Mobilization.

On March 30, 1948 Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that STERLING BROWN is known to her as having been a member of the Communist Party [redacted] have discussed the Communist Party work with her on a number of occasions.

The above information is being furnished the Bureau inasmuch as the indices of this office do not reflect that a loyalty case has been opened on STERLING BROWN.

cc - 121-0

101-1381  
GCM:GPF

4-18-97 SP3BTJ/ew

SE-19

RECORDED 197

100 4-1-7

H2h

Reaction  
S1/11/48 HT

SECURITY INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 10, 1953

STERLING BROWN  
Born: May 1, 1901  
Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7C

There is attached hereto an FBI investigative report reflecting the results of a security-type investigation conducted in 1942. (100-43964)

A check of this Bureau's files concerning the captioned individual reflects that the FBI has conducted no further investigation concerning Sterling Allen Brown; however, during the course of other investigations, some information has been received indicating that he has been active in Communist front organizations since that date.

It is noted that the afore-mentioned report reflects that Sterling Brown was a member of the Washington Bookshop, an organization cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. This Bureau's files reflect that Brown continued his activities as a member and speaker of the Washington Bookshop through the year 1946.

An informant of known reliability advised that early in the fall of 1943, the Organizing Committee of the Jefferson School of Social Science proposed that the institution have a Board of Directors of thirty to forty members and an Executive Committee of nine to twelve members. According to the informant the name of Sterling Brown appeared on a panel of names from which some of the members of the board would be drawn.

The "New York Age," a weekly publication, in the issue of January 26, 1946, published an article requesting that Dr. Sterling Brown, lecturer at Vassar College and Professor of Howard University, was among those who lectured at the Jefferson School of Social Science in connection with that institution's special course, "The Negro In American Life," which began on January 17, 1946.

Original to State Department - Reason: Brown described as "US Specialist" and name submitted by Educational Exchange Service.  
Request Received 12/23/52

SECURITY INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECURITY INFORMATION -- CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. (123-5971-14, pp 7,8)

b2  
b7D

According to an article appearing on page eight of the January 16, 1946 issue of the "Daily Worker," an east coast Communist newspaper, Sterling Brown was among those honored at a dinner sponsored by "New Masses," a Communist publication. This dinner, which was held at the Hotel Commodore at New York City, on January 14, 1946, was held to honor Negro and White Americans for their contribution towards a democratic America. (61-9182 Sub A)

On March 30, 1948, an informant of known reliability advised that Sterling Brown was known to him as having been a member of the Communist Party and had discussed with him the Communist Party work on a number of occasions.

The foregoing information is being furnished as the result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance. It is for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 -

~~SECURITY INFORMATION -- CONFIDENTIAL~~

*BUAEN BACA AT IT*  
SAC, Washington Field (101-1381) *IN '53!*

March 6, 1953

Director, FBI (100-43964)

*0*  
STERLING ALLEN BROWN  
SECURITY MATTER - C *→ JHM a secy mar in 1953!*  
LABOR-FEDERAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 1953

b6  
b7C

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated March 3, 1953, entitled, "Employees of Howard University, Washington, D. C., Labor-Federal Security Appropriations Act of 1953."

The above-captioned individual is reported to be presently employed at Howard University. It is requested that a full security investigation be conducted in accordance with instructions set out in referenced letter. The results of your investigation should reach the Bureau within twenty days after you receive this letter. You should prepare a detailed investigative report incorporating therein all pertinent information regarding subject's background and subversive activities, irrespective of whether the information has been included in previous reports. Information set forth should be carefully paraphrased to protect the identity of all informants. The original source of the information should be obtained and identified in accordance with current Bureau rules regarding documentation of evidence.

Upon completion of your investigation, the reports will be furnished to the Department for a prosecutive opinion. You should not present these cases to the United States Attorney locally.

If, during your investigation, you find that the subject is employed on a part-time basis and is employed in another Government position, you should immediately advise the Bureau.

Attached for your information is one copy of the report of SA [redacted] dated October 25, 1950, at New York, captioned [redacted] Special Inquiry - State Department, Public Law 402, 60th Congress (Voice of America)."

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure

TJJ:mmm

NOTE ON YELLOW: Brown subject of closed Internal Security-Hatch Act case, Washington Field office of origin.

RECORDED 13

MAR 10 1953

137

It is to be noted that on page eight of this report an informant of known reliability advised that early in the Fall of 1943 the Organizing Committee of the Jefferson School of Social Science proposed that the institution have a Board of Directors of thirty to forty members and an executive committee of nine to twelve members. According to the informant, the name Sterling Brown appeared on a panel of names from which some of the members of the board would be drawn.

b2  
b7D

On page nine of this report it is to be noted that the January 26, 1946, issue of the "New York Age" published an article reflecting that Dr. Sterling Brown, Lecturer at Vassar College and Professor of Howard University, was among those who lectured at the Jefferson School of Social Science in connection with that institution's special course, "The Negro in American Life," which began on January 17, 1946.

According to an article appearing on page eight of the January 16, 1946, issue of the "Daily Worker," Sterling Brown was among those honored at a dinner sponsored by "New Masses," a Communist publication. This dinner which was held at the Hotel Commodore at New York City on January 14, 1946, was held to honor Negro and white Americans for their contribution toward a Democratic America.

By Washington Field Office letter dated June 22, 1948, the Bureau was advised that on March 30, 1948, Confidential Informant [ ] advised that Sterling Brown is known to her as having been a member of the Communist Party and to have discussed the Communist Party work with her on a number of occasions.

Bureau files fail to reflect any additional information regarding this subject other than that already known to your office.

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 30, 1953

STERLING ALLEN BROWN  
Born May 1, 1901  
Washington, D.C.

b6  
b7C

(100-43964)

For information concerning the captioned individual you are referred to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 1, 1942, at Washington, D.C., concerning Sterling Allen Brown, who was at that time employed by Howard University at Washington, D.C. A copy of this report was furnished the Federal Security Agency on April 30, 1942.

A check of this Bureau's files concerning the captioned individual reflects that the FBI has conducted no further investigation concerning Sterling Allen Brown, however, during the course of other investigations, some information has been received indicating that he has been active in Communist front organizations since that date.

It is noted that the afore-mentioned report reflects that Sterling Brown was a member of the Washington Bookshop, an organization cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. This Bureau's files reflect that Brown continued his activities as a member and speaker of the Washington Bookshop through the year 1946.

(100-24699-80, 182; 100-348668-3, pg. 2)

An informant of known reliability advised that early in the fall of 1943, the Organizing Committee of the Jefferson School of Social Science proposed that the institution have a Board of Directors of thirty to forty members and an Executive Committee of nine to twelve members. According to the informant, the name of Sterling Brown appeared on a panel of names from which some of the members of the board would be drawn. This Bureau's files contain no information reflecting that Brown was appointed to this Board. The January 26, 1946 issue of the "New York Age," a weekly publication, published an article reflecting that Dr. Sterling Brown, lecturer at Vassar College and Professor of Howard University, was among those who lectured at the Jefferson School of Social Science in connection with that institution's special course, "The Negro in American Life," which began on January 17, 1946.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Original to FSA, Howard University

Request received 1-15-53

E. J. Tobin, rec

1-15-53

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

78 MAR 20 1953

EX-130

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7D

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. (123-5971-14, pgs. 7, 8)

According to an article appearing on page eight of the January 16, 1946, issue of the "Daily Worker," an east coast Communist newspaper, Sterling Brown was among those honored at a dinner sponsored by "New Masses," a Communist publication. This dinner, which was held at the Hotel Commodore at New York City on January 14, 1946, was held to honor Negro and white Americans for their contribution towards a democratic America.

(61-9182 Sub A)  
On March 30, 1948, an informant of known reliability advised that Sterling Brown was known to him as having been a member of the Communist Party [redacted]  
[redacted]

(C-496; 100-43964-7)  
The foregoing information is being furnished as the result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance. It is for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 -

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIR TEL

3-23-53

WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK FROM WASH FIELD (RM)

23

DIRECTOR AND SAC

DEFERRED

STERLING ALLEN BROWN, SM-C; LABOR-FEDERAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 1953. BUFILE 100-43964. REBULET 3-6-LAST INITIATING FULL SECURITY INVESTIGATION, BUDED 3-29-NEXT. FOR INFORMATION NY,

INVESTIGATION BASED ON FACT SUBJECT, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASH. D.C. RECEIVES FUNDS UNDER FSA ACT OF 1953 AND THERE IS INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATING RECORD OF COMMUNIST-  
FRONT AFFILIATIONS ON PART OF SUBJECT. BACKGROUND: NEGRO, BORN

5-1-01, WASH., D.C., ATTENDED WILLIAMS COLLEGE 1918-22, HARVARD UNIV. 1922-23, 1931-32. EMPLOYED VIRGINIA SEMINARY AND COLLEGE 1923-26, LINCOLN UNIV., JEFFERSON CITY, MO. 1926-28, FISK UNIV., 1928-29, HOWARD UNIV. SINCE 1929 (SABBATICAL LEAVES 1931-32, 1937-38), VISITING PROFESSOR, ATLANTA UNIV., SUMMER SESSIONS 1934-37, VISITING PROFESSOR, VASSOR COLLEGE, N.Y., SEPT. TO DEC., 1945-46, 47, EDITOR ON NEGRO AFFAIRS, FEDERAL WRITERS PROJECT, WPA, 1936-37, RECIPIENT GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP 1937-38.

FORMER WF INFORMANT [ ] OF KNOWN UNRELIABILITY, ADVISED IN 1941 THAT SUBJECT IS CP MEMBER WORKING DIRECTLY OUT OF NY NATIONAL CP OFFICE. UPON CURRENT RECONTACT [ ] CLAIMS DID NOT MAKE SUCH STATEMENT AND IF HE DID IT WAS UNTRUE. REBULET REFERRED TO REP

SA [ ] 10-25-50, NY, [ ] VOA",

SFP:FCP

RBH

RECORDED-20  
100-43964-11

53 APR 7 1953

COPIES DESTROYED 9/14/58

4-18-97 SP3BTJ/ew

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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PAGE TWO

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NY 123-3941 WHEREIN SEVERAL REFERENCES MADE TO ONE STERLING BROWN. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RECORDS REVEAL EXISTENCE OF STERLING ALLEN BROWN (SUBJECT), NOTED NEGRO POET [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
BELIEVED SOME REFERENCES TO STERLING BROWN IN NY [REDACTED] REPORT REFER TO SUBJECT WHILE OTHERS TO THE STERLING BROWN OF NCCJ. NY REQUESTED ON BASIS ABOVE BACKGROUND, REPORT INFORMATION ITS FILES IDENTIFIABLE WITH SUBJECT IN A CURRENT REPORT, SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION, UNDER CHARACTER INDICATED ABOVE. IN ADDITION TO REFERENCES IN REREPR RE

[REDACTED] REFER REP SA [REDACTED] 12-10-41, NYC, "LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS, IS-C", NY 100-11720 PAGE 105 LISTS STERLING BROWN, 1222 KEARNY ST., NE, D.C. AS MEMBER. NOTE THIS HAS BEEN SUBJECTS RESIDENCE SINCE THIRTIES. IN 1942 HATCH ACT INTERVIEW SUBJECT ADMITTED HAVING BELONGED TO LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WRITERS. INCLUDE IN YOUR REP RESULTS OF CHECK WITH APPROPRIATE INFORMANTS, SOURCES AND AGENCIES. WFO ORIGIN.

HOOD

WFD-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6/19 1953

To:

\_\_\_\_ Director  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Tolson  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Ladd  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Nichols  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Belmont  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Clegg  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Glavin  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Harbo  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Rosen  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. Tracy  
\_\_\_\_   
\_\_\_\_ Identification Unit  
\_\_\_\_ Technical Laboratory  
\_\_\_\_ Chief Clerk's Office

DATE 4-18-97 BY SP3 BTJ/RA Mr.   
Room#

*Division*

STERLING ALLEN BROWN  
SM-C

Fed. Sec. Approp. Act of 1953

Re: *Raj SA*  3/29/53  
*Profile* 100-43964

→ *DISCLOSED*

JUN 19 1953  
WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-4396)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-113603)

SUBJECT: STERLING ALLEN BROWN  
SM - C; LABOR - FEDERAL  
SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT OF 1953

DATE: 3/30/53

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Rerep of SA [ ] dated March 30, 1953,  
at New York City.

Information contained in the following report has not been included in referenced report inasmuch as it was not known by the New York Office if the information had been previously reported by the office of origin.

Reference is made to the subject in report of SA [ ] dated April 15, 1946, at Washington, D. C., entitled [ ] Espionage - R, on page 69 and in the report of SA [ ] dated August 14, 1947, at Washington, D. C., entitled [ ] Internal Security - R. (1) I.R. - 8

SA [ ] ascertained that the files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, contained information which reflects that one STERLING BROWN is referred to in the Dies Committee Index, Appendix 9. This information has not been incorporated into referenced report inasmuch as it was felt by the New York Office that this information may have previously been reported by the office of origin.

It is to be noted that investigation at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, reflects that [ ]

[ ] a Socialist and "rabid anti-Communist," whose last known address was in care of the Department of History, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. No lead has been set out for the Portland Division to interview [ ] inasmuch as the Bureau deadline was indicated to be March 29, 1953, and it was not known by the New York Office whether the office of origin desired to have the above named individual interviewed for information concerning the subject.

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1 - Washington Field (3 Encs.)

MB

63 APR 14 1953

EX-112

4-18-97 SP3BTJ/RW

Letter to Director, FBI  
NY 100-113603

3/30/53

It is also to be noted that the subject's record at New York University, New York City, reflects that he was employed at the University of Minnesota, as a Visiting Professor in the summer of 1946. By the same reason as set forth above no lead has been set out to have this employment verified.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON FIELD

DMB

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/30/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/26,27/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>STERLING ALLEN BROWN</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SECURITY MATTER - C; LABOR - FEDERAL SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 1953</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <i>5-11-53 RAB</i> Subject employed Vassar College 1945, 1946, and 1947; New York University September, 1938, to September, 1941, and also during summer 1949 and 1950. Reliable informants report subject member of or affiliated with several Communist Party front groups.			
- RUC -			
<u>DETAILS:</u>		<u>BACKGROUND</u>	
<p><u>Criminal</u></p> <p>SA [redacted] ascertained on March 27, 1953, that the Poughkeepsie, New York, Police Department, contained no record for the subject. <i>photo - 2251A</i></p> <p><i>2 POC U REC 4-15-56 JUK.</i></p> <p><u>Employment</u></p> <p>[redacted] advised SA [redacted] on March 27, 1953, that the records for the subject reflect that he was employed as a Visiting Professor of English at Vassar College for the first semester of the school year in 1945, 1946 and 1947. She further advised that the first semester started in September and ended in January. [redacted] advised that the subject's records reflect that additional employment was indicated to be as a Visiting</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>L.V.B.</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
6 - Bureau (100-43964) 3 - Washington Field 2 - New York (100-113603)		100-43964-12 RECORDED - 20 APR 1 1953	
COPIES DESTROYED <i>4-18-97</i>			

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT IS LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND IS NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

**SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL**

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1952-O-210619

16-59255-2

NY 100-113603

Professor at the New York University in 1939 and 1940. In addition the records reflect that subject received a Rosewald Fellowship in the summer and fall of 1952.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
advised the writer on March 27, 1953, that subject was employed at the New York University as an instructor in General Education from September 1, 1938, to September 1, 1939; from September, 1939, to September, 1941, was employed as a lecturer of education. [redacted] further advised that the records further reflect that the subject left the University in September, 1941, and returned for the summer sessions of 1949 and 1950 as a Visiting Professor of Education.

According to [redacted] previous additional employment for the subject was indicated to be as a Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota in the summer of 1946.

#### Residence

[redacted] previously mentioned, advised that the subject's records reflect that his home address was 1222 Kearny Street, N. E., Washington, D. C., and that he resided on the campus at Vassar College during his employment there in 1945, 1946 and 1947.

[redacted] previously mentioned, advised that the records of New York University reflect that the subject's home address was 1222 Kearny Street, N. E., Washington, D. C. She further advised that no local address was indicated for the subject during his employment at New York University.

#### AFFILIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

##### Communist Party Fronts

##### American League for Peace and Democracy

The American League for Peace and Democracy has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

NY 100-113603

The Report of a hearing before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 76th Congress, on page 5508, reflects that one STERLING BROWN was Vice Chairman of the American League for Peace and Democracy in September, 1939.

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Jefferson School of Social Science

The Jefferson School of Social Science has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, advised on October 16, 1943 that one STERLING BROWN was being considered as a member of the Board of Directors for the Jefferson School of Social Science in 1943.

The "New York Age", issue of January 26, 1946, published an article indicating that one Dr. STERLING BROWN, lecturer at Vassar College and Professor at Howard University, conducted a special class at the Jefferson School of Social Science on "The Negro in American Life" which began January 17, 1946.

The "New York Age" is characterized by the "Worker", an East Coast Communist Sunday newspaper, issue of October 16, 1949, Section 1, page 5, column 1, as an "influential Harlem weekly publication".

SA [redacted] ascertained on March 27, 1953 that the files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, reflect that the name STERLING BROWN appeared on the faculty list of the Jefferson School of Social Science in 1946.

League for American Writers

The League for American Writers has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

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NY 100-113603

[redacted] previously mentioned, advised that the subject's record at the New York University reflects that the subject stated on an application dated August 30, 1939, that he was a member of the League for American Writers.

Confidential Informant [redacted] of known reliability, advised in 1941 that STERLING BROWN of 1222 Kearny Street, N. E., Washington, D. C., was a member of the League of American Writers.

A 1940 letterhead of the League of American Writers Inc., 381 4th Avenue, New York City, reflects the name of one STERLING BROWN as being one of the National Board members.

The Fourth Report of Un-American Activities in California in 1948 on Communist Front Organizations, page 274, reflects that one STERLING BROWN had been affiliated with the League for American Writers and its congresses.

#### National Negro Congress

The National Negro Congress has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within purview of Executive Order 9835.

SA [redacted] ascertained that the files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, reflect that STERLING BROWN, a Professor at Vassar College who was from Washington, D. C., was a sponsor of the National Negro Congress in 1943.

#### New Masses

"New Masses" has been cited by the Attorney General as a "Communist periodical."

In the January 26, 1946, issue of the "People's Voice," page 5, column 5, there is a picture of STERLING BROWN who is described as being a Professor at Howard University and on the professional staff of Vassar College. The article reflects that the subject received an award for poetry from the "New Masses" as being an outstanding American.

In the December 29, 1945, issue of the "People's Voice," page 5, it is indicated that one STERLING BROWN would attend a dinner which was to be held on January 15, 1946,

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for CHAP. 4

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in the Hotel Commodore, New York City, under the auspices of "New Masses" to honor Negroes and white Americans for their contributions toward an America of peace.

MISCELLANEOUS

A 1943 letterhead of the Book Union, Incorporated, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City, reflects the name of one STERLING BROWN as being one of the Advisory Council.

The Book Union has been cited by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report of March 29, 1944, page 96, as being distributors of Communist literature.

Confidential Informant [ ] of known reliability, advised [ ] that one STERLING BROWN [ ]

[ ] of JACQUES ROUMAIN, recently deceased Haitian Negro poet and ardent Communist.

Confidential Informant [ ] of known reliability, advised that the Association of Democratique Haitienne and Friends of JACQUES ROUMAIN was completely controlled by the Communist Party.

SA [ ] ascertained on March 27, 1953, that the files of the Bureau of Special Services and Investigation, New York City Police Department, reflect that the subject was listed as honorary Chairman of a banquet to be held at the Essex House on February 23, 1951, in honor of W. E. B. DuBOIS.

Confidential Informant [ ] of known reliability, has described DuBOIS as a concealed Communist.

Confidential Informant [ ] of unknown reliability, but who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised [ ]

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Communist tendencies on the part of the subject and as a matter of fact he has on occasion heard the subject express his dissatisfaction of PAUL ROBESON and ROBESON'S activities.

[ ] further stated that the person who would know more about the subject's activities during the time he was at Vassar College was a former professor at Vassar by the name of [ ]

[ ] He stated that it was his opinion that [ ] would not have associated with the subject if the subject had shown any Communist tendencies at all.

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Confidential Informant [ ] mentioned previously, advised in June of 1950 that PAUL ROBESON was known to him as a concealed Communist in the years prior to 1945.

Confidential Informants [ ] all of known reliability, advised on March 26, 1953, that the subject was unknown to them.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number Where Located</u>
-------------------------------	---	--------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Attended  
meeting of  
Association of  
Democratique  
Haitienne and  
Friends of  
JAQUES ROUMAIN

Used to Document  
Association of  
Democratique  
Haitienne and  
Friends of  
JAQUES ROUMAIN

Background

Negative

100-59518-250

Instant  
Report

Instant  
Report

NY 100-113603

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd.)

INFORMANTS (Cont'd.)

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Rec'd.	Agent to Whom Furnished	File # and Location
	Negative			Instant report
NY 694-S	"	"	"	"
	"	"		"
	"	"	"	"
	"	"		"
	"	"	"	"
	"	"	"	"

LOUIS  
BUDENZ, a  
CP functionary  
until 10/1945

Used to document W. L. B. DuBOIS.

Used to document PAUL ROBESON.

MISCELLANEOUS

Six copies of this report have been designated for the Bureau inasmuch as referenced airtel reflects that this report may be disseminated.

NY 100-113603

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (Cont'd.)

REFERENCE

Airtel to Bureau and New York from Washington  
Field dated March 23, 1953.

NY 100-113603

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